health and safety, social security and wages etc. would no doubt be taken into account while finalising the proposals.

Stringent law to prevent child labour

†570. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that highest number of child labour in the World is found in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring any stringent law to prevent child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) According to the 1991 census data, the number of working children in the country is 11.28 million. According to some estimates, India may have the largest number of child labour population in the World.

(b) Poverty, illiteracy and lack of awareness have been identified as some of the major causes for parents sending their children for work.

(c) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children in Occupations and Processes listed in the schedule to the Act. With a view to making the Act more stringent the Schedule has been enlarged in 1999 and 2000 to include several Occupations and Processes bringing the total number to 13 and 57 respectively. The Central Government is responsible for enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 in railways, major ports, mines, oil fields and establishments under the control of the Central Government. In all other cases, State/UT Governments are responsible for enforcement of the Act. Employers found employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are prosecuted under the provisions of the Act. State/UT Governments furnish information to the Central Government on implementation of the provisions of the Act.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.